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Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Acting Secretary

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 851 – Department of Environment – Development of Outdoor Lighting Standards**

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 851 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 851 requires the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to collaborate with several State agencies, including the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA), to develop outdoor lighting standards.

The SHA follows its Lighting Design Guide when planning the location and installation of highway lighting infrastructure. The Lighting Design Guide considers safety, light pollution, energy conservation, and maintenance requirements in its recommendations.

The SHA is committed to maintaining an appropriate level of roadway lighting in areas with high volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in our mission to achieve Vision Zero. Similarly, other roadway features, such as bridges and underpasses, require proper lighting infrastructure to provide a safe level of visibility. Appropriate lighting is an important component to ensuring a safe road network for all users.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates on House Bill 851.

Respectfully submitted,

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